

# Ring of Honor TV – May 25, 2016: OBNOXIOUS YELLING!

## Ring of Honor

Date: May 25, 2016

Host: Kevin Kelly

It's another special show, this time focusing on the Bullet Club. In other words, yes again we're looking at something that is going to be centered in Japan and will likely feature something from Honor Rising. I don't know when Ring of Honor plans to go back to normal but ANYTIME SOON would be appreciated. Let's get to it.

Since most of these matches are heavily clipped, I won't be rating them unless most of the match is shown.

Kevin Kelly opens things up and promises to show us some clips from Global Wars, which could actually be something pertaining to the current storylines.

We look at Bullet Club showing up in Ring of Honor and one of their first major matches from War of the Worlds 2014.

### IWGP Tag Team Titles: Briscoe Brothers vs. Doc Gallows/Karl Anderson

Anderson and Gallows are defending and we're joined in progress with Jay and Anderson slugging it out in the ring. Jay kicks Anderson in the face as Mark is backdropped on the floor. Gallows splashes Jay and the Boot of Doom (not named here) gets two. Mark gets back in to break up the Magic Killer and chops away at Doc. Now it's Jay back up with a discus forearm on Karl, followed by the Froggy Bow for a close two. Jay gets knocked to the floor and Mark dives into a Gun Stun (Diamond Cutter). Now the Magic Killer puts Mark away at 3:14 shown of 10:40.

From Global Wars 2015.

### Bullet Club vs. ROH All-Stars

AJ Styles/Doc Gallows/Karl Anderson/Young Bucks

War Machine/Briscoe Brothers/Roderick Strong

Joined in progress (of course) with Ray Rowe diving off the top onto everyone. Strong superplexes Matt and AJ in succession before Nick breaks up another one on Gallows. Instead Strong superplexes Nick onto a big pile on the floor. Back in and Gallows hits his choke bomb on Hanson, followed by Bloody Sunday from AJ. Styles swears and Corino is shocked. Strong breaks up the Styles Clash and Jay superkicks Matt into a jumping knee, followed by the Jay Driller. Mark's Froggy Bow puts Matt away at 3:49 shown of 17:25.

TIME FOR MORE HONOR RISING!!! You didn't think they were forgetting about this one did you?

Never Openweight Six Man Tag Team Titles: Elite vs. Briscoe Brothers/Toru Yano

Elite, challenging here, is a subset of the Club comprised of the Young Bucks and Kenny Omega. Fellow Club member Cody Hall jumps the Briscoes before the bell and Yano is triple teamed, which draws little more than a hard stare from the referee. The Briscoes get back in to clean house with Nick being thrown over the top and onto Hall for a big crash.

Yano leans against the ropes until Hall grabs his legs, allowing the Bucks to hit a double superkick. A triple dive from the Elite keeps the champions in trouble and it's time to choke Yano in the corner. We take a break and come back with Omega holding Yano in an abdominal stretch. Nick cartwheels into a backflip into a...backrake. Eh that's no running into a Kevin Owens chinlock.

With nothing else working, Yano pulls the buckle pad off (remember that it's a big column instead of individual pads) to block superkicks and then nail Matt. The tag brings in Mark as things speed up. The threat of Redneck Kung Fu deters Nick for a bit but Omega superkicks Mark down. Mark gets powerbombed into an enziguri in the corner, followed by the Swanton Bomb while Mark was hanging from the ropes for two. A triple superkick (Are you getting the concept yet?) gets two with Jay making the

save.

Yano gets the tag for some low blows, though this time the referee just didn't see them. Omega hair sprays Hall by mistake and gets low blowed and rolled up for two. The Briscoes come back in and it's a double Indytaker, followed by More Bang For Your Buck for the pin on Yano at 12:55.

**Rating:** C+. The match was entertaining enough, assuming you can tolerate all the superkicks. If there's one thing that the Club (and ROH in general) don't get, it's the concept of less is more. These titles don't really mean anything either as they were introduced in January and we're already on the sixth reign.

Here's MORE from Honor Rising with the final match from Anderson and Gallows before they head to WWE.

#### Bullet Club vs. ReDRagon/Hirooki Goto/Katsuyori Shibata

It's Bad Luck Fale (a monster), Tama Tonga, Anderson and Gallows for the Club here. The Club attacks to start (of course) until we settle down to Kyle firing off kicks at Karl. Goto comes in and we take a break. Back with Fale pounding on Goto in the corner before it's back to Karl for a chinlock.

Tonga comes in for a running splash and dropkick with Shibata making the save. He even kicks his partner for some motivation, which actually drives Goto to clothesline Tama. Instead of tagging though, Goto would rather yell at Shibata. Fish is smart enough to tag himself in as everything breaks down. Tonga gets kicked down but still comes back with a fireman's carry flapjack to plant Fish.

The double tag brings in Shibata to forearm Gallows down in the corner but Doc comes out with a hard uppercut. Everything breaks down again and a reverse 3D gets two on Shibata. Goto saves Shibata from the Magic Killer and escapes the Gun Stun. The Gallows Pole gets two on Shibata but he comes back with a quick choke, followed by a running kick to Doc's chest for the pin at 10:22.

**Rating:** C. As usual, this was fine though I have no reason to care about who wins and who loses. It's a three and a half month old match with people I might have heard of if I watch enough New Japan. Nothing to see here other than some watchable action, which isn't enough after a show of nothing but that.

We go back to this year's Global Wars with Colt Cabana holding Jay Lethal in the Billy Goat's Curse. Cue the Young Bucks to superkick the referee and Taeler Hendrix before getting in the ring to hand Lethal and Cabana shirts. Then the lights go out and come back up with Adam Cole in the ring, of course sporting the shirt. More superkicks (with Mr. Wrestling 3 doing his obnoxious yelling every time) drop Lethal and Cabana and Cole says this is their house. Security runs in and eats a bunch of superkicks, meaning it's time for some crotch chops (Wrestling 3: "THAT'S HOT!").

Tama Loa and Tama Tonga (fellow Club members) come out and more security is beaten up with superkick after superkick. We cut forward to a security member being powerbombed through a table, which of course has been spray painted BC. The announcers eat superkicks so the Bucks take their places and do what sound like Jim Ross/Jerry Lawler impressions. Lethal is tied to the ropes as Cole picks up the ROH World Title. That means EVEN MORE SUPERKICKS before Cole runs around with the belt. The cameraman gets superkicked and the Club talks into the camera to end things.

Cole says this is a long time coming because this isn't about little kids like the Kingdom anymore. Lethal has been saying he has no challengers but everyone knows that Cole is the man around here. He's coming to take the title because he can.

**Overall Rating:** D. Uh...yeah. The last little bit was good because it actually addressed something going on in Ring of Honor but the rest felt like more "WE LOVE NEW JAPAN" stuff, which has been going on for months now. I'm sure you've heard all my standard issues at this point so I won't bother doing it again, but they need to get back to regular stuff and soon. This is just making me care even less about ROH and I'm already forgetting most of the stories they're doing. There was no indication that next week is another special but it's almost too late to get back

there, especially if the Club is going to be the focus now.

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# Ring of Honor TV – April 27, 2016: ROH Doing New Japan The WWE Way

## Ring of Honor

Date: April 27, 2016

Location: Korakuen Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Attendance: 1,367

Commentators: Kevin Kelly, Mr. Wrestling 3

We're still in Japan and back in February with more matches from Honor Rising 2016. At this point you almost have to expect Ring of Honor to skip most of the Dallas stuff and just do a new set of TV tapings in May with the New Japan guys again. There won't be anything major in storyline terms here but hopefully the action will be good. Let's get to it.

Jay Lethal/Tetsuya Naito vs. Kazuchika Okada/Yoshi-Hashi

Okada is the IWGP World Champion but has since lost the title to Naito,

who is kind of a loner, which is why he's the leader of a stable. Lethal and Okada start things off in what's actually a pretty cool visual. They trade wristlocks to start as we get the silent treatment (not a bad thing) from the fans. An early Lethal Injection attempt is countered (amazingly enough) but Jay ducks the Rainmaker to get us to a standoff. Naito doesn't want to tag in and we take a break.

Back with Naito tagging in to jump over the apron and dropkick Naito for two. A quick Codebreaker allows for the tag off to Okada who eats a tornado DDT for his efforts. Lethal adds a roaring elbow but accidentally superkicks Naito (thankfully without a Young Bucks reference), allowing Okada to dropkick him down. The hot (minus the crowd reaction) tag brings in Yoshi for a neckbreaker and Blockbuster for two each. The Book of Truth is brought in to poor results but Naito's goon Evil (formerly known as Watanabe) shoves Yoshi off the top, setting up the Lethal Injection for the pin at 12:56.

**Rating:** C+. This was fine and Lethal is really starting to feel like a major player instead of someone in over his head. I'm still not a big fan of the guy but he's improved by leaps and bounds in the last year or so. Naito was fun to watch but I need to see more of him to get the idea of his whole deal.

Naito reads the Book of Truth and then uses it to pound on Yoshi. Jay shakes his hand post match to imply a future partnership.

### Kazarian vs. Kushida

Kushida's IWGP Junior Heavyweight Title isn't on the line. It's a fight over a top wristlock to start as the announcers talk about the referee's career. Kushida gets in an early Hoverboard Lock but Kazarian bails to the ropes. That's fine with Kushida as he rides Kazarian on the mat to take us to a break.

Back with Kazarian snapping the throat across the ropes and getting in the slingshot DDT. We hit the choking with Kushida pointing to his throat as he can't breathe. A Backstabber gets two on Kushida as Kelly says we'll be seeing more Honor Rising stuff for weeks to come. Kushida gets in a dropkick to send Kazarian out to the floor and there's a big flip

dive to take him out again.

Back in and it's off to the submission attempts so Kazarian goes American with a rake to the eyes. An electric chair into a rollup gets two as the announcers talk about Japanese baseball. Kazarian loads up the Flux Capacitor (because both of these guys LOVE Back to the Future in a parallel the announcers miss) but Kushida grabs the Hoverboard Lock to slam Kazarian down to the mat. Another Hoverboard Lock makes him tap at 9:37.

**Rating:** C. I liked this more than I was expecting to but really I just want to go watch Back to the Future. Kushida still doesn't do much for me and Kazarian hasn't been the same guy I used to be a fan of back in TNA. I'm also not sure why you wouldn't make this a title match to add a little spice. The wrestling was fine though.

The Briscoes get into shenanigans on the streets of Tokyo.

#### Elite vs. ReDRagon/Katsuyori Shibata

Elite is a subset of Bullet Club comprised of Kenny Omega and the Young Bucks because we haven't seen them enough on the regular shows. The Elite is sent out to the floor and Shibata and Omega fight past the barricade. The Bucks try stereo sunset flips and get caught in matching cross armbreakers. Shibata puts Omega in one as well, only to get powerbombed onto his partners. Omega is left alone in the ring so he dives over the top to take everyone down.

We take another break and come back with the Elite taking turns choking Fish. A tag match breaks out of all the fighting with Nick telling Fish to suck it several times. Bobby suplexes Nick into Matt and makes the tag off to Kyle while Shibata is nowhere to be seen. Chasing the Dragon is broken up and it's off to Shibata vs. Omega for the big slugout. Shibata gets in a choke and the Bucks can't break it up.

A double superkick puts him down to one knee and the triple version gets two. Everything breaks down and Omega throws Shibata off a tornado DDT, setting up the superkick party. Everyone kicks everyone until Kyle counters the One Winged Angel into a guillotine choke. Matt sprays

something in Kyle's eyes though and it's the One Winged Angle to put O'Reilly away at 10:16.

**Rating:** B-. Best match of the night here as Omega continues to look like a star. Shibata is fine in the Ken Shamrock mold of cyborg submission machine and it's a good time whenever I get to see the Bucks get beaten up. ReDRagon is still one of the best things about ROH but they're at the weird point where the Tag Team Titles don't mean anything to them anymore.

**Overall Rating:** C. "So you know how we've been showing you these matches that don't mean anything for weeks on end? Well how about paying to see a full pay per view of them?" That's the WWE style of booking TV to a pay per view and it doesn't work for either promotion. The limited interest I had in seeing Global Wars and War of the Worlds has been thrown out the window now because I've watched these big names for the better part of a month. Where's the incentive to keep watching and even pay for another show?

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